

When you first open the VIM editor, you are in the **command mode** of the editor. The command mode is where you type in awesome VIM commands to manipulate text. **Insertion mode** is just where you can type text normally. (Like in windows notepad) To get into insertion mode, type **i** (abbreviation for insert). To get into command mode, press the **Esc** key.

If you're ever not sure which mode you're in, just press the **Esc** key and you'll be in command mode for sure.

The following commands are executed in command mode.

<p>Copy & Paste</p> <p>Press v. (To enter visual mode so you can highlight stuff)</p> <p>Use the arrow keys (or h,j,k,l,w,b,\$) to highlight</p> <p>Press y to yank, p to paste. (shift-p to open up a line above and paste)</p> <p>Copy a word yw Copy a line yy Copy from cursor to end of line y\$</p>	<p>Navigation</p> <p>Go up k Go down j Go left h Go right l Go right a word w Go left a word b Go to beginning of file gg Go to end of file G Go 22 lines down 22j Go to end of line \$ Go to beginning of non-whitespace part of line ^</p> <p>Go right 5 words 5w</p>	<p>Shell (Exit temporarily to a shell)</p> <p>Type :sh</p> <p>To come back to VIM from the shell type exit</p> <p>Split Window Editing</p> <p>Type :sp followed by the filename.</p> <p>Go to window above ctrl-w-k Go to window below ctrl-w-j</p> <p>Maximize window size ctrl-w _ (the underscore is NOT pressed at the same time as the ctrl-w)</p> <p>Make all windows equal size ctrl-w = (the equals sign is NOT pressed at the same time as the ctrl-w)</p>
<p>Copy & Paste (with Registers)</p> <p>Press v. (To enter visual mode so you can highlight stuff)</p> <p>Use the arrow keys (or h,j,k,l,w,b,\$) to highlight</p> <p>Type "ay to yank into register a. Type "ap to paste from register a.</p>	<p>Insert Text</p> <p>Insert at cursor i Insert after cursor a (useful when at the end of a line) Open a line below cursor and insert o Open a line above cursor and insert shift-o</p>	
<p>Deleting</p> <p>Press v. (To enter visual mode so you can highlight stuff)</p> <p>Use the arrow keys (or h,j,k,l,w,b,\$) keys to highlight and press d</p> <p>Delete character x Delete word dw Delete word and insert text cw Delete line dd Delete to end of line D</p>	<p>Quitting VIM</p> <p>Type :q to quit the editor.</p> <p>Saving a file</p> <p>Type :w to write to the file.</p>	<p>Undo a Command</p> <p>Undo u Redo an undo ctrl-r</p>
<p>Indenting</p> <p>Press v and then arrow keys (or h,j,k,l,w,\$) to highlight lines of text.</p> <p>Type > or < to indent right or left.</p> <p>(to indent more, type 2> or 3>)</p> <p>(to change your indenting/tabbing to use spaces and not tabs, type :set et)</p> <p>(to set auto-indenting, type :set ai)</p> <p>(to set the tab-size, type :set ts=2 (or whatever number you want))</p> <p>(also, for tabbing-size, set shiftwidth (>) by typing :set sw=2)</p>	<p>Search & Replace</p> <p>Search / (after the slash put whatever you want to find and press the enter key)</p> <p>Find next n Find previous N</p> <p>Turn off highlighting (after a search) :noh</p> <p>Find next instance of a word that your text cursor is over *</p> <p>Search and replace from current line to end of file :/s/search/replace/gc (the gc means global and confirm)</p>	<p>View Directory & File Explorer</p> <p>Type :S (the S is uppercase)</p> <p>This will split the window and open up a file explorer. Use the enter key to select directories or to open files.</p>